

Special Research Grants Program – Pest Management Alternatives

FY 2007 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 15, 2007



U.S. Department of Agriculture



Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

**COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE;
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**SPECIAL RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM – PEST MANAGEMENT
ALTERNATIVES**

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.200, Grants for Agricultural Research, Special Research Grants.

DATES: Applications must be received by Grants.gov by close of business (COB) on **February 15, 2007 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time)**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding. Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within six months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is requesting comments regarding this RFA from any interested party. These comments will be considered in the development of the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and will be used to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). This section requires the Secretary to solicit and consider input on a current RFA from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, education and extension for use in formulating future RFAs for competitive programs. Written stakeholder comments on this RFA should be submitted in accordance with the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of this Notice.

Written stakeholder comments should be submitted by mail to: Policy, Oversight, and Funds Management Branch; Office of Extramural Programs; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; USDA; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2299; or via e-mail to: RFP-OEP@csrees.usda.gov. (This e-mail address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the Special Research Grants Program - Pest Management Alternatives RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CSREES announces the availability of grant funds and requests applications for the Special Research Grants Program - Pest Management Alternatives (PMAP) for fiscal year (FY) 2007 to address needs in integrated pest management (IPM) for food, feed, fiber, forest, livestock, and ornamental commodities resulting from the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) (Pub. L. No. 104-170) and related regulatory actions. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2007 for the four regions (North Central, Northeastern, Southern, and Western) of the United States is approximately \$1.4 million.

This notice identifies the objectives for PMAP projects from the four regions, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a PMAP grant. CSREES additionally requests stakeholder input from any interested party for use in the development of the next RFA for this program.

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PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

The Special Research Grants Program - Pest Management Alternatives (PMAP) is administered by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The authority for this program is contained in subsection (c)(1)(A) of Section 2 of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, (Pub. L. No. 89-106), as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)(1)(A)). Under this authority, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary may make grants, for periods not to exceed three years, to State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations or corporations, and individuals for the purpose of conducting research to facilitate or expand promising breakthroughs in areas of the food and agricultural sciences of importance to the United States.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The purpose of PMAP is to provide support for and encourage the development and implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) practices, tactics and systems for specific pest problems while reducing human and environmental risks. The successful management of pest problems in commercial production is facing severe challenges due to regulatory changes, emergence of new pest problems, and the development of pest resistance to present management technologies. The greatest impact on current management technologies is in the production of specialty crops; however, other crops, including grain, forage and fiber as well as animal health are also being impacted by these changes.

1. Objectives for PMAP

- (a) Develop or adapt IPM tactics and technologies to address specific pest problems in both pre- and post-harvest systems (e.g., modify existing tactics and practices or create different pest management approaches or tactics, and demonstrate their effectiveness);
- (b) Adapt, evaluate and demonstrate the effectiveness of modified or alternative IPM tactics and technologies, including products of genetic engineering, biological organisms, biological pesticides, new chemical pesticides, and cultural practices; and
- (c) Describe and field demonstrate how tactics can be economically and effectively integrated into production systems for individual crops.

2. Critical Elements in an Application

Applicants must fulfill **all** four of the following:

- (a) Demonstrate potential for near-term implementation of project results, findings, and outcomes and include an economic analysis that demonstrates feasibility of implementation;

(b) Evaluate and demonstrate potential for commercialization (including product registration, if necessary) of technologies developed as a result of the project;

(c) Demonstrate that the application is responding to pest management needs and priorities identified by stakeholders either through the Pest Management Strategic Plans, Crop Profiles, Interregional Research Project #4 (IR-4) priorities (<http://ir4.rutgers.edu/>), or similar identifiable documents developed by groups involving stakeholders. Crop Profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans can be accessed at <http://www.ipmcenters.org/products.cfm>; and

(d) Address a priority within your region, as detailed below.

3. Regional Priorities

Priorities have been established with stakeholder input for all four regions. Applicants from each region should address their region's priorities within the context of the PMAP goals and objectives. Multi-regional projects have no priority but are accepted.

North Central Priorities

[States include: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.]

(a) Respond to pest management needs and priorities identified by stakeholder input to the North Central Region IPM Center via Pest Management Strategic Plans (<http://www.ncipmc.org/pmsp/index.cfm>) and Crop Profiles (<http://www.ncipmc.org/profiles/index.cfm>);

(b) Provide research and outreach programs for alternative management technologies for (1) insect pests in tree fruits, including codling moth and Oriental fruit moth; and (2) insect pests in vegetables such as corn earworms in sweet corn, tomato fruitworms and stink bugs in tomatoes, squash bugs, cucumber beetles, and aphids (as virus vectors) in cucurbits;

(c) Provide research and outreach programs for alternative management technologies for key disease, insect, vertebrate and weed pests of agricultural, nursery and greenhouse production systems. In addition to applications addressing pesticide loss due to FQPA, those addressing production systems in which pesticides have been lost due to resistance are encouraged. This includes herbicides and insecticides used in the production of fruit, vegetable, greenhouse, and field crops;

(d) Assess, develop, and disseminate new pest monitoring tools that can be incorporated into an overall IPM system; and

(e) Develop new and innovative IPM strategies and tactics that can be implemented by growers, farmers, crop consultants or agribusiness personnel to reduce pesticide inputs, while maintaining crop production and quality standards.

Northeastern Priorities

[States include: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.]

- (a) Address one of the priorities listed below or a pest management need identified by stakeholders to the Northeastern IPM Center, as listed on the website http://northeastipm.org/regu_regional.cfm. Provide a citation for the priority;
- (b) Develop or improve IPM options for weed management, including weed identification, for agricultural settings;
- (c) Conduct research and outreach on alternative cultural and biological pest control strategies (e.g., biocontrol, genetic resistance, habitat manipulation) in organic and/or conventional horticultural production systems (e.g., fruit, greenhouse, nursery, ornamental, and vegetable crops);
- (d) Assess, develop, and distribute new or improved methods for pest monitoring systems; and
- (e) Develop IPM tactics for critical or emerging pests of regional or national magnitude. Examples of issues that could fit into this project type are plum pox virus, soybean rust, West Nile virus, emerald ash borer, or perhaps a newly discovered invasive species that could have a significant impact on the economics of the Northeast.

Southern Priorities

[States include: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Virgin Islands.]

- (a) Respond to pest management needs and priorities identified in Pest Management Strategic Plans from the Southern Region, found online at <http://www.sripmc.org/pmsp/index.cfm>;
- (b) Respond to new pest problems in Southern Region crops resulting from losses or potential losses of IPM technologies due to regulatory decisions & voluntary cancellations;
- (c) Respond to issues related to pest resistance, including those related to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) technologies (e.g., glyphosate-resistant weeds, resistance of target insects to Bt);
- (d) Respond to new and emerging problems due to pest invasions (e.g., imported fire ant, soybean rust) and changes in production systems (e.g., heteropteran pests on cotton); and
- (e) Improve or develop IPM systems, technologies and techniques that reduce risk relative to existing systems in Southern Region crops (e.g., organophosphate use in peaches).

Western Priorities

[States include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and the following Pacific Islands (Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau).]

- (a) Respond to pest management needs and priorities identified in Pest Management Strategic Plans from the Western Region, found online at <http://pestdata.ncsu.edu/pmsp/pmindex.cfm?USDARegion=Western>;
- (b) Resistance prevention and management, including, but not limited to cultural practices and cultivar selection;
- (c) Reducing pesticide use through improved cultural practices including, but not limited to irrigation and/or nutrient management while maintaining economic viability;
- (d) Alternative tactics (application technology, cultural, chemical) for pest management where current control measures are no longer available or are limited in their usage due to regulatory constraints. These tactics should be less hazardous to humans and the environment than existing organophosphates, carbamates and other FQPA-impacted pesticides;
- (e) Develop economic data and outreach on the costs and risks of implementation of IPM/Best Management Practices (BMP) practices to growers; and
- (f) Educate growers, crop consultants, and field workers on the beneficial effects of integrated pest management (e.g., conserving natural enemy populations as a means of reducing pesticide inputs).

4. eXtension

Although it is not required and will not affect funding, the PMAP encourages projects that develop content suitable for delivery through eXtension. This content is for ‘end users’ as opposed to staff development and must align with the eXtension Guiding Principles, Implementation Plan and other requirements as presented at the site <http://intranet.extension.org>. Funds may be used to contribute to an existing Community of Practice or to form a new Community of Practice with a focus on pest management education and outreach activities.

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. Approximately \$1.4 million will be available to fund applications in FY 2007.

B. Types of Applications

In FY 2007, applications may be submitted to the PMAP Program as one of the following two types of requests:

(1) New application. This is a project application that has not been previously submitted to the PMAP Program. All new applications will be reviewed competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

(2) Resubmitted application. This is an application that had previously been submitted to the PMAP Program but not funded. Project Directors (PDs) must respond to the previous review panel summary (see Response to Previous Review, Part V, 3.11 of the “CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov.”) Resubmitted applications must be received by the relevant due dates, will be evaluated in competition with other pending applications in appropriate area to which they are assigned, and will be reviewed according to the same evaluation criteria as new applications.

C. Project Types

Project periods may not exceed two (2) years. Recipients may be eligible for no-cost extensions after years one and two, but no carryover or extension is permitted for these projects beyond three years. Any unexpended funds are lost.

Priorities have been established on a regional basis. Applications from each region should address these regional priorities within the context of the PMAP goals and objectives (described in Part I, B.).

D. Scientific Peer Review

Subsection (c)(5) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)(5)) requires applicants to conduct scientific peer review of their proposed research activities in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary prior to the Secretary making a grant award under this authority. Regulations implementing this requirement are set forth in 7 CFR part 3400.20. The regulations impose the following requirements:

(1) Scientific peer review. Prior to the award of a standard or continuation grant by CSREES, any proposed project shall have undergone a review arranged by the grantee. For research

projects, such review must be a scientific peer review conducted in accordance with 7 CFR 3400.21.

(2) Credible and independent review. A review arranged by the grantee must provide for a credible and independent assessment of the proposed project. A credible review is one that provides an appraisal of technical quality and relevance sufficient for an organizational representative to make an informed judgment as to whether the proposal is appropriate for submission for Federal support. To provide for an independent review, such review may include USDA employees, but should not be conducted solely by USDA employees.

(3) Notice of completion and retention of records. A notice of completion of the review shall be conveyed in writing to CSREES as part of the Other Attachments (Field 11. of the R&R Other Project Information Form)(See Part IV, B. (1)(c)). The written notice constitutes certification by the applicant that a review in compliance with these regulations has occurred. Applicants are not required to submit results of the review to CSREES; however, proper documentation of the review process and results should be retained by the applicant. **Please note: award funds cannot be released until the Scientific Peer Review Certification is received.**

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations or corporations, and individuals. While their collaboration is encouraged, scientists affiliated with non-United States organizations are not eligible to serve as PDs for PMAP funded projects. Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. Public-private partnerships, including partnerships that involve producer or commodity groups, are encouraged. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will result in CSREES returning the application without review or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude CSREES from making an award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

There are no matching requirements for PMAP grants awarded under this authority. Matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria nor will they affect relevance rankings.

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Address to Request Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to CSREES in response to this RFA.

Prior to preparing an application, it is suggested that the PD/PI first contact an Authorized Representative (AR) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grants.gov. If the organization is not prepared, the AR should see http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp for steps for preparing to submit applications through Grants.gov. Note, Grants.gov works only with Internet Explorer 5.01 or higher, Netscape Communicator 4.5-4.8, Netscape 6.1, 6.2 or 7.

The steps to access application materials are as follows:

1. Download and install PureEdge Viewer, a small, free program that provides access to the grant application. See http://www.grants.gov/resources/download_software.jsp#pureedge.
2. The application package must be obtained via Grants.gov, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, click on “Apply for Grants” in the left-hand column, click on “**Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions**,” enter the CFDA number 10.200 or enter the Funding Opportunity Number “USDA-CSREES-SRGP-000328” in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.” From the search results, click “Download” to access the application package.

Contained within the application package is the “[CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov](#).” This Guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, information about how to use a Grant Application Package in Grants.gov, and instructions on how to complete the application forms.

If assistance is needed to access the application package (e.g., downloading or navigating PureEdge forms, using PureEdge with a Macintosh computer), refer to resources available on the Grants.gov Web site first (<http://grants.gov/>). Grants.gov assistance is also available as follows:

- Grants.gov customer support
Toll Free: 1-800-518-4726
Business Hours: M-F 7:00 am – 9 pm Eastern Standard Time
Email: support@grants.gov

(Note: If immediate assistance is needed from Grants.gov, it is suggested they be contacted by phone rather than by email.) See <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html> for additional resources for applying electronically.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

Electronic applications should be prepared following Part V and VI of the document entitled “[A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov.](#)” This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A. of this Part). The following is **additional information** needed in order to prepare an application in response to this RFA. If there is discrepancy between the two documents, the information contained in this RFA is overriding.

Note the attachment requirements (e.g., portable document format) in Part III Section 3. of the Guide.

1. R&R Other Project Information Form

a. Project Summary/Abstract (Field 6. on the Form). The summary should also include the relevance of the project to the goals of PMAP.

b. Project Narrative (Field 7. on the Form).

PLEASE NOTE: The Project Narrative shall not exceed eighteen (18) pages of single or double-spaced written text including figures and tables. This maximum has been established to ensure fair and equitable competition. The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

(i) Problem statement: Identify the pest management problem addressed, its significance, and options for a solution. Identify the commodity(ies) and the pesticides that will be addressed by the proposed project. Identify the production area addressed, its size (for example, acreage), frequency and severity of losses, and the potential applicability of this study to other production regions. As appropriate, proposals should address issues as they relate to current IPM and crop production practices, technologic and economic feasibility of potential new practices, and the potential durability of these new practices.

(ii) Objectives: Provide clear, concise, complete, and logically arranged statements of the project’s proposed objectives.

(iii) Research, education, and technology transfer plan: Where applicable, provide a credible, detailed plan for the research, education, and technology transfer.

c. Other Attachment (Field 11. on the Form).

(i) Scientific Peer Review Certification Documentation (see Part II, D. item 3.). The application must contain a written notice to CSREES that a Scientific Peer Review has been completed (see Part II, D. item 3.) Title and save the attachment file as “Scientific Peer Review Certification Documentation”.

(ii) Relevance Statement. A Relevance Statement should be included that describes the relevance of the project to your Region’s priorities (see Part I, B.). Without exceeding three (3) pages in length, the Relevance Statement should (a) include Project Director(s) name and project

title; (b) describe the problem, background and justification for the proposed project (this may be copied from the application); (c) describe how the proposed project addresses the region's priorities, as identified in this RFA; and (d) discuss how IPM management practices will be enhanced if the proposed project is successful. Title and save the file attachment as "Relevance Statement".

2. CSREES Supplemental Information Form

a. Program Code (Field 2. on the Form). Enter the program code name "**Pest Management Alternatives**" and the program code "**MX**".

b. Conflict of Interest List (Field 8. on the Form).

C. Submission Date and Time

Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by COB on **February 15, 2007 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time)**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

The receipt of all applications will be acknowledged by e-mail. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide accurate e-mail addresses, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R Application for Federal Assistance.

If the AR has not received a confirmation message from CSREES within 30 days of submission of the application, please contact the Program Contact identified in Part VII of the applicable RFA and request the proposal number assigned to the application. **Failure to do so may result in the application not being considered for funding by the peer review panel. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, this number should be cited on all future correspondence.**

D. Funding Restrictions

Section 709 of the FY 2006 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 109-97) limits indirect costs to 20 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 20 percent of total Federal funds awarded. Another method of calculating the maximum allowable is 25 percent of the total direct costs. If the 2007 Appropriations Act contains a different indirect cost limitation, CSREES will contact each successful applicant to apply the correct rate prior to awarding a grant.

CSREES has determined that grant funds awarded under Section 2(c)(1)(A) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment

of research space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

E. Other Submission Requirements

The applicant should follow the submission requirements noted in the document entitled “A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov.”

PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

Each application will be evaluated in a three-part process. First, each application will be screened to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Second, applications that meet these requirements will be reviewed by the regions for relevance. Third, applications will be technically evaluated by a national review panel.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

B. Evaluation Criteria

The relevance review and the technical/scientific review will be conducted by two different panels. The evaluation criteria below will be used in reviewing applications submitted in response to this RFA:

1. Relevance Evaluation Criteria – approximately 40 percent of the total score.

The regional panels will use the following evaluation criteria to evaluate the relevance of applications submitted in response to this RFA:

- (a) Documented need (based on statement in ‘Objectives for PMAP’ under Part I, B ‘Purpose and Priorities’);
- (b) Potential for proposed project to address the region’s priority needs; and
- (c) Potential for proposed project to contribute to the development of viable pest management practices.

Relevance Scoring Sheet for PMAP Proposals, FY 2007		Available Points
(a) Overall Relevance. Proposal addresses at least one PMAP objective plus critical relevance elements a-c in Part V, B. 1. of the RFA.		30
Partial scoring	Points	
Fully meets all	30	
Meets or partially meets some	16-29	
Meets few or none	0-15	
(b) Regional Relevance. Proposal matches a documented stakeholder priority of the region (based on Part V,B.1. of the RFA). Multi-region projects must address a documented priority of each region.		35
Partial scoring	Points	
Clear match with documented and cited stakeholder priority	35	
Less than satisfactory match with documented and cited stakeholder priority or project seems to address a priority, but the priority is not well-documented.	10-34	
Poor match to any stakeholder priority.	0-9	
(c) The proposed project will enhance IPM practices.		35
Total Relevance Score		100

2. Technical Evaluation Criteria – approximately 60 percent of total score.

The National PMAP Panel will use the following evaluation criteria to evaluate the technical merit of applications submitted in response to this RFA:

- (a) Appropriate and clearly stated research and/or outreach objectives;
- (b) Methodology and analytical approach is appropriate to project objective(s);
- (c) Involvement of appropriate, relevant expertise;
- (d) Experience of key personnel;
- (e) Feasibility of attaining objectives during the project period;

- (f) Appropriateness of the budget; and
- (g) Adherence to the proposal guidelines.

C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

During the peer evaluation process, extreme care will be taken to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest, the academic and administrative autonomy of an institution shall be determined by reference to the current Higher Education Directory, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648, Falls Church, Virginia 22042. Phone: (703) 532-2300. Web site: <http://www.hepinc.com>.

Names of submitting institutions and individuals, as well as application content and peer evaluations, will be kept confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, the identities of peer reviewers will remain confidential throughout the entire review process. Therefore, the names of the reviewers will not be released to applicants.

D. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one time basis, with updates on an as needed basis, as part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another CSREES program. CSREES will provide copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the preaward process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, there are factors which may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).

PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the awarding official of CSREES shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. The date specified by the awarding official of CSREES as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the Federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. It should be noted that the project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period. All funds granted by CSREES under this RFA shall be expended solely for the purpose for which the funds are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, the regulations, the terms and conditions of the award, the applicable Federal cost principles, and the Department's assistance regulations (parts 3015 and 3019 of 7 CFR).

B. Award Notice

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to whom the Administrator has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;
- (2) Title of project;
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;
- (4) Identifying award number assigned by the Department;
- (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time the Department intends to support the project without requiring recompetition for funds;
- (6) Total amount of Departmental financial assistance approved by the Administrator during the project period;
- (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;
- (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;
- (9) Applicable award terms and conditions (see <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html> to view CSREES award terms and conditions);

(10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and

(11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by CSREES to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications considered for review and to project grants awarded under this program. These include, but are not limited to:

7 CFR Part 1, subpart A—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-129 regarding debt collection.

7 CFR Part 15, subpart A—USDA implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

7 CFR Part 331 and 9 CFR Part 121—USDA implementation of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002.

7 CFR Part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, implementing OMB directives (i.e., OMB Circular Nos. A-21 and A-122, now codified at 2 CFR Parts 220 and 230) and incorporating provisions of 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308 (formerly the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, Pub. L. No. 95-224), as well as general policy requirements applicable to recipients of Departmental financial assistance.

7 CFR Part 3017—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and 7 CFR Part 3021—Governmentwide Requirements for Drug Free Workplace (Grants).

7 CFR Part 3018—USDA implementation of Restrictions on Lobbying. Imposes prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans.

7 CFR Part 3019—USDA implementation of OMB Circular A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Other Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 3052—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non profit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 3407—CSREES procedures to implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

29 U.S.C. 794 (section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and 7 CFR Part 15b (USDA implementation of statute) —prohibiting discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap in Federally assisted programs.

35 U.S.C. 200 et seq. —Bayh Dole Act, controlling allocation of rights to inventions made by employees of small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations, including universities, in Federally assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR Part 401).

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Grantees are required to submit initial project information and annual and summary reports to CSREES' Current Research Information System (CRIS). The CRIS database contains narrative project information, progress/impact statements, and final technical reports that are made available to the public. For applications recommended for funding, instructions on preparing and submission of project documentation will be provided to the applicant by the agency contact. Documentation must be submitted to CRIS before CSREES funds will be released. Project reports will be requested by the CRIS office when required. For more information about CRIS, visit <http://cris.csrees.usda.gov>. Requirements may be found in the CSREES General Terms and Conditions referenced in the award notification.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact Dr. Monte P. Johnson; National Program Leader; Plant and Animal Systems Unit; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2220; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2220; telephone: (202) 401-1108; fax: (202) 401-4888; e-mail: mpjohnson@csrees.usda.gov.

PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

A. Access to Review Information

Copies of reviews, not including the identity of reviewers, and a summary of the panel comments will be sent to the applicant PD after the review process has been completed.

B. Use of Funds; Changes

1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility

Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, the awardee may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

2. Changes in Project Plans

a. The permissible changes by the awardee, PD(s), or other key project personnel in the approved project shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other similar aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the awardee or the PD(s) is uncertain as to whether a change complies with this provision, the question must be referred to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) for a final determination. The ADO is the signatory of the award document, not the program contact.

b. Changes in approved goals or objectives shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes. In no event shall requests for such changes be approved which are outside the scope of the original approved project.

c. Changes in approved project leadership or the replacement or reassignment of other key project personnel shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes.

d. Transfers of actual performance of the substantive programmatic work in whole or in part and provisions for payment of funds, whether or not Federal funds are involved, shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such transfers, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of the award.

e. The project period may be extended by CSREES without additional financial support, for such additional period(s) as the ADO determines may be necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project, but in no case shall the total project period exceed three years. Any extension of time shall be conditioned upon prior request by the awardee and approval in writing by the ADO, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of award.

f. Changes in Approved Budget: Unless stated otherwise in the terms and conditions of award, changes in an approved budget must be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to instituting such changes if the revision will involve transfers or expenditures of

amounts requiring prior approval as set forth in the applicable Federal cost principles, Departmental regulations, or award.

C. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of the record of CSREES transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within the application. The original copy of an application that does not result in an award will be retained by the Agency for a period of three years. Other copies will be destroyed. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final action thereon.

D. Regulatory Information

For the reasons set forth in the final Rule related Notice to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V (48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983), this program is excluded from the scope of the Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the collection of information requirements contained in this Notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0039.

E. Definitions

For the purpose of this program, the following definitions are applicable:

Administrator means the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and any other officer or employee of the Department to whom the authority involved is delegated.

Authorized departmental officer means the Secretary or any employee of the Department who has the authority to issue or modify grant instruments on behalf of the Secretary.

Authorized representative means the president, director, or chief executive officer or other designated official of the applicant organization who has the authority to commit the resources of the organization.

Budget period means the interval of time (usually 12 months) into which the project period is divided for budgetary and reporting purposes.

Department or USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

Grant means the award by the Secretary of funds to an eligible organization or individual to assist in meeting the costs of conducting, for the benefit of the public, an identified project which

is intended and designed to accomplish the purpose of the program as identified in these guidelines.

Grantee means an organization designated in the grant award document as the responsible legal entity to which a grant is awarded.

Peer review means an evaluation of a proposed project for scientific or technical quality and relevance performed by experts with the scientific knowledge and technical skills to conduct the proposed work or to give expert advice on the merits of a proposal and management of the project.

Prior approval means written approval evidencing prior consent by an authorized departmental officer as defined above.

Project means the particular activity within the scope of the program supported by a grant award.

Project director means the single individual designated in the grant application and approved by the Secretary who is responsible for the direction and management of the project.

Project period means the period, as stated in the award document, during which Federal sponsorship begins and ends.

Research activity means a scientific investigation or inquiry that results in the generation of knowledge.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture and any other officer or employee of the Department to whom the authority involved is delegated.

F. CSREES' Grants.gov Implementation Plans

CSREES is continuing to develop its capacity to exchange proposal and grant data electronically with its grantees through [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and to process, review, and award proposals and grants electronically.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2006, CSREES offered an electronic application option for select grant programs and partnered with five institutions to use Grants.gov Apply. CSREES utilized the SF-424 R&R (Research and Related) forms package (see 70 FR 9656, published in the Federal Register on February 28, 2005) along with CSREES Agency-specific forms and instructions to receive the electronic applications. These pilot activities were successful and provided lessons for applicants and CSREES.

As a result, for the FY 2007 (October 1, 2006-September 30, 2007) cycle, CSREES is requiring electronic submission through Grants.gov for some programs while providing a Grants.gov option for others. Please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/fy07changes.html> for information about FY 2007 submission requirements by program. For more information about CSREES' Grants.gov plans, including important announcements, program implementation, and

detailed requirements, see the CSREES' web site, http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/other_links/egov/egov.html. The information on these web sites will be updated as appropriate. It is suggested that the sites be visited periodically for important updates.

G. DUNS Number

A Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of over 70 million businesses worldwide. A Federal Register notice of final policy issuance (68 FR 38402) requires a DUNS number in every application (i.e., hard copy and electronic) for a grant or cooperative agreement (except applications from individuals) submitted on or after October 1, 2003. Therefore, project directors should contact an AR to obtain the DUNS number or have the AR begin the steps needed to obtain one.

For information about how to obtain a DUNS number go to <http://www.grants.gov/RequestaDUNS>. Please note that the registration may take up to 14 business days to complete.